

Sick Child Care Policy

A sick child care policy will help prevent or stop the spread of disease. It describes for parents your policy on caring for children who arrive at your child care home sick or become sick during the day. Family child care providers must have a sick child care policy to receive a Fairfax County Home Child Care Permit.

Your sick child care policy needs to state the following:

- You will call the parents right away if a child in your care becomes ill and cannot participate in daily activities or routines.
- You cannot care for a sick child if the health of other children is at risk.
- Parents must plan for back-up sick care for a child if they are unable to leave work.

Your sick child care policy states that parents will need to pick up a child with the following conditions:

- Fever: Axillary temperature of 100° F or 38° C or greater
- Diarrhea: Five or more loose, watery stools within 24 hours
- Vomiting
- Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- Headache or stiff neck
- Lice
- Rash or spots on skin, ringworm infection
- Severe itching
- Mouth sores
- Eye discharge
- Unusual nasal discharge
- Significant tiredness, irritability, crying
- Uncontrolled coughing
- Difficulty breathing, wheezing

In cases of fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting, tell parents that the child should not return to care until 24 hours have passed since the last sign of the symptoms.

You may request that the family bring a note from the doctor stating the child may return to child care.

Some Things to Keep in Mind

- Inform all families of any contagious illness.
- Focus on the needs of the sick child and prevent the spread of the illness.
- Write down everything you know about a child's illness, including symptoms, when it started and comments.
- Tell families what you know about a disease, including the symptoms and when it can be spread.
- Give prescription and nonprescription medicine from the original container. Follow the written instructions from the doctor on the label. Make sure you have a signed permission form from the parent or doctor to give the medicine. Write down any medicine given to children.
- Prescription medicines need to be dated, with the prescription label and child's first and last name attached.
- Return all medicine to the families when it is finished or no longer needed.
- Keep all medicine (refrigerated or not refrigerated) out of children's reach and locked if possible.
- To contact the National Capital Poison Center, call 1-800-222-1222 or TTY 202-362-8563 or visit the web site www.poisson.org